

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Kevin McCarthy Minority Leader U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

As members of Congress work together to confront the COVID-19 pandemic and to provide urgent assistance to counter the impact of this crisis on our economy, we are writing to ask that any legislative package providing needed assistance to our healthcare facilities include guaranteed paid sick leave to frontline healthcare facility workers as a condition for that aid.

Today, across the patchwork of healthcare providers throughout our country, we see wide discrepancies regarding paid sick leave policies for healthcare facility workers—determined by healthcare facilities' financial situation and, indirectly, often informed by the socioeconomic status of the communities that they predominately serve. In the face of this patchwork of different systems, we must set in place a policy of security, certainty, and support for frontline healthcare facility workers that provides them with the ability to safely carry out their responsibilities.

In our communities, we see firsthand the toll that this unprecedented public health crisis is taking on nurses and other frontline healthcare facility workers. If we fail to put in place a clear, national standard of guaranteed paid sick leave for affected healthcare facility workers through the duration of the public health emergency, we are concerned that significant numbers of workers could contract COVID-19, transmit it to other personnel, and inadvertently endanger the health of our communities more broadly as a result.

We are particularly alarmed by initial reports suggesting that frontline health workers may be more seriously affected by COVID-19 than non-medical peers of the same age group. While the data will require long-term study and analysis, it is crucial that, as members of Congress, we pay attention to potential warning signs as we formulate our response to this crisis.

By working together, we can ensure that healthcare facility workers serving on the frontlines of this public health emergency are receiving the care and resources that they need. In doing so, we will be protecting their health, as well as the public health of individuals and communities across our country.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We appreciate your willingness to consider our recommendations.

Sincerely,

Fishlind Susan Wild John B. Larson Member of Congress Member of Congress /s//s/Donald M. Payne, Jr. Raul M. Grijalva Member of Congress Member of Congress Nanecto Diaz Baragan /s/Brendan F. Boyle Nanette Diaz Barragán Member of Congress Member of Congress /s//s/William R. Keating Danny K. Davis Member of Congress Member of Congress

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/s/

Peter A. DeFazio Member of Congress Bobby L. Rush Member of Congress

Thomas R. Surge

Tom Suozzi Member of Congress Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

Katu Porta

Katie Porter Member of Congress /s/

Eleanor H. Norton Member of Congress

Lori Trahan Member of Congress

Levi Trechen

Darren Soto Member of Congress

/s/

Sylvia R. Garcia Member of Congress /s/

/s/

Jesús G. "Chuy" García Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer Member of Congress Jahana Hayes

Member of Congress

Henry Lellar Barbare Lee Barbara Lee Henry Cuellar Member of Congress Member of Congress /s/ /s/Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. Tony Cárdenas Member of Congress Member of Congress /s//s/Donna E. Shalala Eddie Bernice Johnson Member of Congress Member of Congress Mike Doyle Mike Doyle Rashida Tlaib Member of Congress Member of Congress

/s/

Sheila Jackson Lee

Member of Congress

/s/

Elissa Slotkin

Member of Congress

Norma glows

/s/

David Scott Member of Congress Norma J. Torres Member of Congress

Jewold Hadlen

Jerrold Nadler Member of Congress

Steve Cohen Member of Congress

Steve Cohen

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D. Member of Congress

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/s/

Jamie Raskin Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez Member of Congress

Marc Veasey Member of Congress Jenstobeloudy

Jan Schakowsky Member of Congress aleed Hastings

Alcee L. Hastings Member of Congress

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Joseph P. Kennedy, III Member of Congress Jug har: hay

Jerry McNerney Member of Congress

Andy Levin

Member of Congress

Diana DeGette Member of Congress